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CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL (BIOLOGICAL) WEAPONS

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Macaire KABORE (Burkina Faso)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "Chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons" was included in the provisional agenda of the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly in accordance with its resolution 47/39 of 30 November 1993.

2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 24 September 1993, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.

3. At its 2nd meeting, on 14 October 1993, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on all disarmament and international security items allocated to it, namely, items 57 to 75 and 77 to 82. The deliberations on those items took place at the 3rd and 14th meetings, on 18 to 22, 25, 26 and 28 October (see A/C.1/48/SR.3-14). Consideration of draft resolutions on those items took place at the 18th to 23rd meetings, from 3 to 5, 8 and 9 November (A/C.1/48/SR.18-23). Action on draft resolutions on those items took place at the 24th to 30th meetings, on 11, 12, 15, 16, 18 and 19 November (see A/C.1/48/SR.24-30).

4. In connection with item 61, the First Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons (A/48/311);

(b) Letter dated 12 January 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/48/62);

(c) Letter dated 15 January 1993 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/48/67-S/25118);

(d) Letter dated 28 January 1993 from the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/48/71);

(e) Letter dated 25 March 1993 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Algeria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/48/121);

(f) Letter dated 4 August 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the final document of the Third Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government, held at Salvador, Brazil, on 15 and 16 July 1993 (A/48/291-S/26242 and Corr.1);

(g) Letter dated 30 August 1993 from the Permanent Representative of the Marshall Islands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the text of the Twenty-fourth South Pacific Forum Communiqué, completed at Nauru on 10 and 11 August 1993 (A/48/359);

(h) Letter dated 12 July 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the documents adopted by the twenty-first Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, held at Karachi from 25 to 29 April 1993 (A/48/396-S/26440);

(i) Letter dated 5 October 1993 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/48/477);

(j) Letter dated 6 October 1993 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/48/480-S/26547).

II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

A. Draft resolution A/C.1/48/L.11

5. On 29 October, Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Canada, Cape Verde, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Latvia, Liberia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, the Marshall Islands, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, the Russian Federation, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Venezuela

(A/C.1/48/L.11) submitted a draft resolution entitled "Chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons", which was later also sponsored by Albania, Bolivia, Chile, Estonia, Gabon, Haiti, Kyrgyzstan, Malta, Panama, the Philippines and Tunisia. The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of the Netherlands at the 19th meeting of the Committee, on 4 November 1993. The draft resolution read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolution 47/39 of 30 November 1992, adopted by consensus, in which the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction 1/ was commended,

"Recalling also its resolution 46/35 B of 6 December 1991, in which the Assembly condemned vigorously all actions that violate the obligations assumed under the Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare, signed at Geneva on 17 June 1925, 2/

"Determined to make progress towards general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control, including the prohibition of all types of weapons of mass destruction,

"Welcoming the completion of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, the result of many years of intensive negotiations by the Conference on Disarmament, which constitutes an historic achievement in the field of arms control and disarmament,

"Welcoming also the successful signing ceremony in Paris on 13 to 15 January 1993, where one hundred and thirty States signed the Convention, and the subsequent signature of seventeen States in New York,

"Welcoming further the progress achieved by the Preparatory Commission for the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons at The Hague,

"Convinced that the Convention, particularly as adherence to it approaches universality, will contribute to the maintenance of international peace and improve the security of all States and that it therefore merits the strong support of the entire international community,

"Convinced also that the implementation of the Convention should promote expanded international trade, technological development and economic cooperation in the chemical sector, in order to enhance the economic and technological development of all States parties,

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1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/47/27), appendix I.

2/ League of Nations, Treaty Series, vol. XCIV (1929), No. 2138.

"Determined to ensure the efficient and cost-effective implementation of the Convention,

"1. Calls upon all States which have not yet done so to sign the Convention in order to achieve universal adherence;

"2. Also calls upon all signatory States, according to their respective constitutional processes, to become parties to the Convention at the earliest possible date, thus contributing to its rapid entry into force and to the early achievement of universal adherence;

"3. Reaffirms the necessity that all States ensure the effective implementation of this unprecedented, global, comprehensive and verifiable multilateral disarmament agreement, thereby enhancing cooperative multilateralism as a basis for international peace and security;

"4. Requests all signatory States to play full and active roles in the work of the Preparatory Commission for the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons;

"5. Encourages the Preparatory Commission for the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons to pursue further its efforts for the purpose of carrying out the necessary preparations for the effective implementation of the Convention;

"6. Requests the Secretary-General, as depositary of the Convention, to report to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session on the status of signatures and ratifications of the Convention."

6. On 12 November, the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran submitted an amendment to draft resolution A/C.1/48/L.11 (A/C.1/48/L.50), which contained the following change: in the eighth preambular paragraph, before the words "in order to enhance", the phrase "and should lead to the removal of all restrictions, including those in any international agreements, incompatible with the obligations undertaken under the Convention," was inserted.

7. On 18 November, the Islamic Republic of Iran submitted a revised draft amendment (A/C.1/48/L.50/Rev.1), which contained the following change: in the eighth preambular paragraph, before the words "in order to enhance", the phrase "and that, upon the entry into force of the Convention, States parties shall not maintain among themselves any restrictions, including those in any international agreements, incompatible with the obligations undertaken under the Convention," was inserted.

8. At the request of the sponsors, draft resolution A/C.1/48/L.11 was not put to a vote and, consequently, at the 30th meeting, on 19 November, was withdrawn (see A/C.1/48/SR.30 and Add.1).

B. Draft resolution A/C.1/48/L.33

9. At the 20th meeting, on 5 November, the representative of Hungary, on behalf of Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cuba, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, the Russian Federation, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction" (A/C.1/48/L.33), which was later also sponsored by Chile, Costa Rica, Honduras, Luxembourg, Malta, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Slovenia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey.

10. At its 25th meeting, on 12 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/48/L.33 without a vote (see para. 11).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

11. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction

The General Assembly,

Recalling, in particular, its previous resolutions relating to the complete and effective prohibition of bacteriological (biological) and toxin weapons and on their destruction,

Recalling also its resolution 46/35 A, adopted without a vote on 6 December 1991, in which it welcomed, inter alia, the establishment, proceeding from the recommendations of the Third Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, 3/ of an ad hoc group of governmental experts open to all States parties to identify and examine potential verification measures from a scientific and technical standpoint,

Noting with satisfaction that there were more than 130 States parties to the Convention, including all the permanent members of the Security Council,

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3/ BWC/CONF.III/23.

Recalling its call upon all States parties to the Convention to participate in the implementation of the recommendations of the Third Review Conference, including the exchange of information and data agreed to in the Final Declaration of the Third Review Conference, 4/ and to provide such information and data in conformity with standardized procedure to the Secretary-General on an annual basis and not later than 15 April,

Recalling also the provisions of the Convention related to scientific and technological cooperation and the related provisions of the Final Document of the Third Review Conference and the final report of the Ad Hoc Group of Governmental Experts,

1. Notes with satisfaction that the Ad Hoc Group of Governmental Experts completed its work on 24 September 1993;

2. Commends to all States parties the final report of the Ad Hoc Group of Governmental Experts agreed to by consensus at its last meeting at Geneva on 24 September 1993;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to render the necessary assistance to the depositary Powers of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction and to provide such services as may be required for the convening of a special conference should the depositary Powers be requested by a majority of States parties to convene such a conference in order to consider the final report of the Ad Hoc Group of Governmental Experts;

4. Welcomes the information and data provided to date and reiterates its call upon all States parties to the Convention to participate in the exchange of information and data agreed to in the Final Declaration of the Third Review Conference;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to render the necessary assistance and to provide such services as may be required for the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Third Review Conference;

6. Calls upon all signatory States that have not yet ratified the Convention to do so without delay and also calls upon those other States which have not signed the Convention to become parties thereto at an early date, thus contributing to the achievement of universal adherence to the Convention.

4/ BWC/CONF.III/23/II.